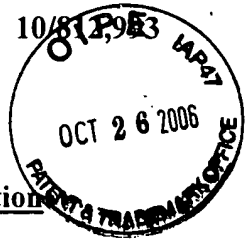


Application No.: 10/812,993



AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Figs. 1-4 and 6-7 have been amended to indicate the location of the rear face and the light emission face of the light guiding plate and to show the correct location of the facet D2. Furthermore, Figs. 6-7 have been amended to include the legend "Prior Art" to indicate their status as prior art.

REMARKS**I. Introduction**

In response to the pending Office Action, Applicant has amended Figs. 9a-b and 10a-b to indicate that they represent prior art. In addition, Applicant has added new claims 24-26 to further clarify the subject matter of the present invention. Support for new claims 24-26 may be found, for example, on page 13, lines 23-27 of the specification.

For the reasons set forth below, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are patentable over the cited prior art references.

**II. The Rejection Of Claims 1-23 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102**

Claims 1-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Ohnishi (USP No. 6,751,092). Applicant respectfully submits that Ohnishi fails to anticipate the pending claims for at least the following reasons.

With regard to the present invention, claims 1 and 8 each recite, in-part, a shock-absorbing member disposed on a main body of equipment, and comprising a shock-absorbing base part and a shock-absorbing flexible part,...and the shock-absorbing base part buckles so as to absorb a shock when receiving an impact.

Similarly, claim 20 recites, a shock-absorbing method of an electronic device including a shock-absorbing member formed by integrally molding a shock-absorbing base part and the shock-absorbing flexible part,...and the shock-absorbing base part buckles so as to absorb a shock when receiving an impact.

In contrast to the present invention, Ohnishi fails to disclose that the shock-absorbing base part buckles. It was alleged that Ohnishi discloses a shock absorbing base part that has a thickness smaller than that of the shock-absorbing flexible part, and the shock-absorbing base part buckles so as to absorb a shock when receiving an impact. However, the passages cited by the Examiner (Fig. 9; col. 15, lines 50-60 of Ohnishi) do not give any indication that the shock-absorbing base part buckles. Indeed, Col. 15, lines 50-60 of Ohnishi discusses shock absorbing materials and thickness of the material used for shock absorption. Furthermore, Fig. 9 merely shows a device that has two shock absorbing members 431 and 432 that have different strengths. No mention is made in either Fig. 9 or col. 15, lines 50-60 that the shock-absorbing flexible part can buckle. In fact, nowhere in Ohnishi is there a teaching or suggestion that the shock-absorbing base part buckles, such as for example elements 18a, 18b and 181, as shown in Fig. 2 of the present application. Furthermore, the base parts disclosed in Fig. 9 of Ohnishi do not appear to be arranged in a manner that would allow for the base part to buckle upon impact. Accordingly, Ohnishi fails to teach a shock-absorbing base part that buckles so as to absorb a shock when receiving an impact.

Moreover, claim 2, which depends on claim 1, has the further limitation that wherein the shock-absorbing base part forms a bending part which is vertical to the shock direction, and starts buckling at the bending part of the shock-absorbing base part so as to absorb a shock when receiving an impact.

In contrast to the present invention, Ohnishi fails to disclose a bending part that is part of the shock-absorbing base part. In fact, Ohnishi fails to teach or suggest anywhere in the reference anything about bucking or bending of a shock-absorbing member. Ohnishi teaches to effectively cope with shocks ranging from weak to strong, "by providing the vibration and/or

shock absorbing members having the different thicknesses” and “forming the vibration and/or shock absorbing members from materials having different shock absorbing characteristics” (see Ohnishi col. 5, lines 18-48), but not that the materials buckle or bend. Moreover, Ohnishi describes, in the section entitled “Description of the Preferred Embodiments” (see, col 6, line 17- col. 11, line 24) 23 different embodiments of the proposed invention, none of which mention buckling of the shock-absorbing members. It appears that the invention of Ohnishi is directed to the certain placement of commonly used shock-absorbing materials, rather than the novel buckling of the shock-absorbing members as disclosed in the present invention. Accordingly, Ohnishi fails to teach the above cited limitations of the present invention.

Anticipation under 35 U.S.C. § 102 requires that each and every element of the claim be disclosed, either expressly or inherently in a prior art reference, *Akzo N.V. v. U.S. Int’l Trade Commission*, 808 F.2d 1471 (Fed. Cir. 1986), and Ohnishi does not disclose a shock-absorbing member disposed on a main body of equipment, and comprising a shock-absorbing base part and a shock-absorbing flexible part,...and the shock-absorbing base part buckles so as to absorb a shock when receiving an impact, OR a shock-absorbing method of an electronic device including a shock-absorbing member formed by integrally molding a shock-absorbing base part and the shock-absorbing flexible part,...and the shock-absorbing base part buckles so as to absorb a shock when receiving an impact, OR wherein the shock-absorbing base part forms a bending part which is vertical to the shock direction, and starts buckling at the bending part of the shock-absorbing base part so as to absorb a shock when receiving an impact. Therefore, it is clear that Ohnishi fails to anticipate claims 1, 2, 8 or 20 or any dependent claims thereon, and Applicant respectfully requests that the § 102 rejection be traversed.

**III. All Dependent Claims Are Allowable Because The  
Independent Claim From Which They Depend Is Allowable**

Under Federal Circuit guidelines, a dependent claim is nonobvious if the independent claim upon which it depends is allowable because all the limitations of the independent claim are contained in the dependent claims, *Hartness International Inc. v. Simplimatic Engineering Co.*, 819 F.2d at 1100, 1108 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Accordingly, as claims 1, 2, 8 and 20 are patentable for the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that all pending dependent claims are also in condition for allowance.

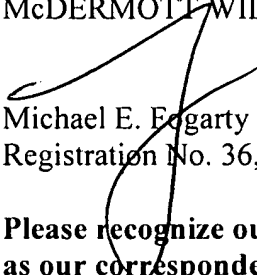
**IV. Conclusion**

Having responded to all open issues set forth in the Office Action, it is respectfully submitted that all claims are in condition for allowance.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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